

**Division of Water Quality  
Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Public Notice of Intent to Issue Ground Water  
Discharge Permit No. UGW470004**

**Purpose of Public Notice**

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is soliciting comments on the intent to issue a ground water discharge and associated construction permit as described below. The ground water discharge permit is issued by the Director of the Division of Water Quality under authority of the Utah Water Quality Act, Section 19-5-106(g) Utah Code Ann. 1953, as amended and Utah Administrative Code R317-6. Under Section 19-1-301.5, effective May 8, 2012, a person who wishes to challenge a Permit Order may only raise an issue or argument during an adjudicatory proceeding that was raised during the public comment period and was supported with sufficient information or documentation to enable the Director to fully consider the substance and significance of the issue. Utah Code Ann. 19-1-301.5 can be viewed at the following internet URL: [http://www.le.utah.gov/xcode/Title19/Chapter1/19-1-S301.5.html?v=C19-1-S301.5\\_2015051220150512](http://www.le.utah.gov/xcode/Title19/Chapter1/19-1-S301.5.html?v=C19-1-S301.5_2015051220150512).

**Permit Information**

Permittee Name:	MCW Energy Group
Mailing Address:	18653 Ventura Blvd. Tarzana, CA 91356
Facility Location:	Bitumen extraction facility located in Maeser, UT. Mine and tailings disposal site located approximately 10 miles southeast of Vernal, UT

MCW Energy plans to process tar sands ore mined at the Temple Mountain Energy mine site to remove hydrocarbons by solvent extraction at a processing site located near Maeser in the Northwest Asphalt Ridge area of Uintah County, Utah. The Maeser site is located in the NW ¼ of Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 20 East, Salt Lake Base and Meridian (SLB&M). The Temple Mountain mine site is located in the SW1/4 and the W1/2 of the SE1/4, Section 31, Township 5 S, Range 22 E, SLB&M, and in the E1/2 of the SE1/4, Section 36, Township 5 S, Range 21 E, SLB&M. No mining will be done at the Maeser site. Processing may be moved to the Temple Mountain mine site in the future, but in this event, the Maeser site will continue to be used for further process testing and development. Bitumen will be extracted from the oil sands ore using proprietary combinations of light hydrocarbon-based solvents. The bitumen extraction operation at the Maeser site has been previously determined to qualify for permit-by-rule status based on *de minimis* potential effect on ground water quality. Solvents and other liquids will be contained in aboveground tanks; ore and tailings will be temporarily placed on lined pads before the ore is processed and the tailings trucked off site. Tailings from the bitumen extraction operation will be disposed of at the Temple Mountain mine site. Drilling at the Temple Mountain Mine site did not indicate the presence of ground water in the upper 200 feet below the ground surface at this site, and the bedrock consists mainly of rocks with low permeability. Discharge of leachate from the tailings will be prevented by containment structures including a cap over the tailings that incorporates a flexible membrane liner, and a low-permeability earthen liner installed under the tailings. Performance of the containment structures will be monitored by a 25' x 25' collection liner which will be installed under the lower liner, in a location which would be likely to collect leachate if it were to form.

**Public Comments**

Public comments are invited any time prior to **Thursday, June 9, 2016**. Written comments may be directed to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ), P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870. All comments received prior to close of business on **Thursday, June 9, 2016**, will be considered in the formulation of final conditions to be imposed on the permit.

**Additional Information**

Additional information may be obtained upon request by contacting Mark Novak at (801) 536-4358 or [mnovak@utah.gov](mailto:mnovak@utah.gov) or by writing to the aforementioned address. Related documents are available for review during normal business hours at DWQ, 195 North 1950 West in Salt Lake City or on the DWQ web page at <http://www.deq.utah.gov/NewsNotices/notices/water/index.htm>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact Dana Powers, Office of Human Resources at (801) 536-4413, TDD (801) 536-4414.